

December 2023

Laura Allen • TCK Care

Joyful reunion with onboarding and returning TCKs in Indiana.

*"Children are not a distraction from more important work.
They are the most important work."
~ C.S. Lewis*

Dear Friends,

As we come to the close of another year, I want to stop and catch you up on what has been happening in my corner of the world in the past several months.

Ministry News

My greatest joy comes when I connect with our Cornerstone International TCKs in person. In September, I had the opportunity to drive to Indiana where I spent several days with a returning missionary family. I spent time debriefing each of the five kids on their experiences living overseas for the past two years. I also spent time with their parents exploring the educational direction and goals they want to pursue while waiting on the Lord for their next assignment. One highlight of the trip was when two other onboarding missionary families living in Ohio came to see us for the day. The kids had so much fun reconnecting with each other and the parents enjoyed the rich time of fellowship and encouragement. I was thrilled to spend time with the three families because it is not very often that we are together in person.

I long to grow in my relationships with the CI TCKs. I have found that Zoom, FaceTime, Signal, and WhatsApp have all provided ways to stay connected on a regular basis with some of the missionary families. I've enjoyed listening to kids share their highs and lows of the past week or month and catching up with their mamas. I've had kids read books to me over Zoom, show me their latest home projects that they are building, help me practice my Spanish, and memorize scripture with me. I am slowly building trust with them. Hopefully, this trust will help us weather the storms of life which are sure to come. It takes time to develop trusting relationships with all of our missionary families. Please pray that God will grant me favor as I look for meaningful ways to connect and support each family in the context of their unique ministry and country.

We had three families join our CI family this year. One family moved to Honduras in August. I've Zoomed or chatted regularly with them as they have settled in to their new life. The move for them has not been easy, but what an honor to walk with them through their transition and experience the faithfulness of God as He has provided for their needs and helped them settle. The other two families are finishing up their support raising and have projected dates for moving to their country of service. I have Zoomed regularly with them and helped their kids process their feelings and concerns about moving to a new country.





Personal Update

I love the phrase, "Think globally. Act locally." While I serve with an international ministry, I also look for ways to serve at my local church. God has opened doors for me to develop friendships with several young women involved with our young adults group at my home church in Nashville. Recently I was invited to cook a Thai dinner for the group during a retreat weekend. I made it a group affair, assigning guys and gals to tasks of cutting and cooking and preparing the delicious meal together. We had 17 people around the table that evening enjoying the feast and fellowship.

My sweet mama has had a rough year. She had back surgery in September and had a difficult recovery that was compounded by a hard fall. She landed in the hospital for two weeks and has now been home for several weeks making slow improvement. I have lived with her for the past month, trying to give her the support she needs so that she can heal safely.

One highlight from this past month was a visit from my sweet niece, Tirza who came to see us for a week from Colorado. Her older brother, Kanaan and his family moved to Tennessee the same week. Kanaan and his wife, Nicole, will be joining a new YWAM base that will be located in Nashville. With their brother, Isaiah, living only 40 minutes away, we got together for dinner one evening and had such a sweet reunion. Nothing thrills a grandmother more than to have her grandchildren and great-grandchildren together under one roof.



Christmas Wishes

My prayer for you is that you will have a blessed Christmas with family and friends and God's rich blessings in this coming year. I am so thankful for each and every one of you.

Gratefully yours,



Laura

Support

To stand with Laura Allen financially, you can give online at cornerstoneinternational.org/allen or make your check out to Cornerstone Int'l, memo **Allen • TCK Care**, & mail to PO Box 192 Wilmore, KY 40390

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